GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3782
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Forest Officials
Maragatham Smt. K.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports that the forest officials in many parts of the country are guarding the forests and the wildlife without the much needed safety net etc.;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government had asked the State Governments to take appropriate action in the matter; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d) Protection and Management of forests and wildlife is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. The concerned State and Union Territory Governments within the limited resources take various measures such as strengthening of infrastructure, mobility, communication, arms and ammunitions, strengthening of check posts etc. to provide safety for forest officers in the field. Incidents of attack on forest staff do take place. As per the report received from Government of Andhra Pradesh, several violent incidents in Red Sanders forests have occurred, wherein the forest officials intercepting the wood cutters / illicit transporters were physically assaulted resulting in death of two forest personnel in one incident.
The Central government has advised the State/UT Governments to take necessary action in this regard. Further the Central Government also supplements the efforts of the State/UT Governments through its schemes namely Intensification of Forest Management Scheme, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Elephant and Project Tiger by providing funds to the States/UTs.

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